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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 13 Feb. 1950

SUBJECT Nitrogen Plant in Chorzow

NO. OF PAGES 3

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1. Designation of the Plant:

CHORZOW Nitrogen Plant. The complete Polish designation is Pod Odoz Pracy Przy P.R.Z.A. CHORZOW III. The plant inscription read: P.F.Z.A. The plant is nationalized and assigned to the chemical industrial section.

2. Management:

The operational manager was KOVALSKI. There was also a commercial manager. The technical management was mostly in charge of ethnic Germans who were already employed in the plant during the German period.

3. Location:

On the northern outskirts of CHORZOW, about 3,300 feet from the town center. Numerous cantonment buildings for workmen are north of the plant. The village of MATSCHIENKOVIC is east of the plant. Easily identified were plant installations: Four gas tanks, the turbine and boiler house and three cooling towers with an average height of 80 to 100 feet.

4. Plant Area and Installations:

The plant area covers about 250 acres. The plant has the following departments:

Carbide department  
Artificial fertilizer and nitrogen department  
Acid department  
Carbon dioxide department  
Boiler department  
Fire department  
Carpentry  
Electrical department  
Fine mechanical department  
Mechanical departments with locksmith' shop, forge,

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in the shop, and packing shop.

5. Traffic Facilities:

There was a good highway to the town and spur tracks to the main railroad station. A **three** track railroad line was inside the plant. The plant had three or four Mentschel steam locomotives, several field railroads and five trucks.

6. Machinery:

a. About 20 modern boilers in a good condition equipped with so-called traveling grates were in the boiler house. Each of the four gas tanks was 16 feet high and 13 feet in diameter. The two boilers in the acid department were each 20 feet high and 10 feet in diameter.

b. Four or five compressors (German make) in very good condition were in the compressor station. This station is the best and most modern installation of the plant.

c. Seven Siemens and Halske transformers were in the carbide department with seven electric furnaces (German make). Six of these furnaces (old types) were in operation. The remaining machines were almost all of German make, most of them needing repair.

7. Power Supply

A large power station was southwest of the plant with a cable connection with the turbine house in the plant for unknown reason. The connecting cables were torn down twice within two years. **Each time a fire immediately started.** Emergency units did not exist in the plant.

8. Raw Materials

Coke was stored in the coke bin near the carbide department. Incoming shipments consisted mainly of lime, lime stones and coal dust. Various acids were stored in oblong boilers.

9. Work Force:

1947: 450 PWs 1948: 250 PWs

1949: 60 PWs with an additional force of 4,000 Polish civilian workmen and ethnic Germans.

Work Schedule:

Three 8-hours shifts. The shift norm in the carbide department was 500 cwt. of carbide for nine workmen at one furnace.

10. Carbide Production:

Lime and coke were first weighed in certain proportionate amounts. Lime and coke were then poured down a funnel or so-called chute into the furnace immediately to the electrode. The smelting process was done by the electrode. Each hour the molten liquid was filled into a so-called trough (eight troughs, one-ton capacity each). The troughs were placed on electrically operated platform cars which moved into the cooling shop when the troughs were full. The troughs sometimes still hot, were lifted by cranes from the car. After cooling

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the carbide was broken with crowbars and put into 75 kg barrels. Carbide was crushed for nitrogen processing.

11. Production Amounts:

a. In the carbide department 3,000 cwt. of carbide were hourly produced. In the acid department large amounts of various percentage acids were daily put in carboys. In the oxygen department 1,000 cylinders were filled daily. The oxygen production was the main source of income for the plant.

b. The carbon dioxide gas was produced in the generator department, pumped through pipe lines to the railroad station and put into balloon-shaped tank cars. Variable kinds of artificial fertilizers, such as potash salt, were also produced.

12. Shipment:

Most of the products are shipped to the Soviet Union, especially potash salt. Few products remain in the country.

Comment:

a. This report is a supplement to previous information. The plant had three carbide furnaces in 1939, each with a daily output of 110 tons of carbide as well as installations for the daily production of about 400 tons of nitrogen of lime and about 26 tons of ammonium sulphate.

b. The 500 cwt. shift output of one carbide furnace indicated in para 9 would correspond to a daily output of 75 tons. This would mean that the production capacity of the carbide furnaces considerably declined compared with the prewar capacity.

c. The Polish 1950 schedule provides for a total production of 150,000 tons of pure nitrogen which allegedly would meet the domestic requirements. To attain this production goal a third large nitrogen plant is scheduled to be built in KRUROW or BIRAWA (District of FYKNIK) in addition to the two existing nitrogen plants in CHORZOW and MOSCICE. Part of the necessary equipment is said to be dismantled machinery of the hydrogenation plants in HEYDELBACH and BILCHALMIR.

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